

May 4, 2000

in making this improved picture possible through a variety of accomplishments, including turning over 70 percent of the country's economic assets to private hands, restoring 95 percent of the country's nationalized farmland to its original owners and, completing nearly 1100 privatization deals in 1999 alone (representing nearly \$587 million dollars in proceeds for the Bulgarian treasury).

Additionally, the Government recently pledged, over the course of the coming year, to continue progress on a variety of tough anti-corruption, anti-crime, and judicial reform programs and to find new ways to help alleviate poverty and unemployment in the country.

The ongoing reforms and the restructuring process that are taking place in the country's energy sector are also impressive and lead to attractive foreign investment opportunities. In this sector, over the coming year, the Government plans to: continue its efforts to eliminate state subsidies; close inefficient production facilities; begin the separation of generation, transmission and distribution assets; and take actions to encourage further foreign investment in the sector.

Each of these steps/actions represent an important part of the Governments ongoing efforts to comply with IMF targets and meet the deregulation and environmental standards that will be necessary precursors to eventual European Union membership.

We would like to highlight one particularly promising project that the Government is undertaking in the country's energy sector. In conjunction with a well-known U.S. company—Entergy Corporation, this project will modernize one of Bulgaria's important energy facilities: the lignite-fired, Maritza East III plant (located in the town of Stara Zagora, approximately thirty-seven miles from the Turkish border).

Once the planned improvements and upgrades are completed at this facility, the plant will meet stringent environmental standards, which will lead to a reduction in levels of sulfur dioxide emissions by at least 90%. In addition, the implementation of the Maritza East III project will also help to ensure that Bulgaria has a sufficient reliable capacity of electricity as it moves to close down a Soviet designed nuclear power plant deemed unsafe by E.U. standards. It is our understanding that Entergy also plans to support the community around the power plant through worker training programs, environmental improvement programs and the identification of a variety of projects for social investment. The Maritza East III project will bolster the Bulgarian economy by the purchase of more than \$75 million dollars worth of local goods and services and the creation of 600 construction jobs. In short, we believe this partnership between Bulgaria and Entergy is a win-win situation.

We look forward to seeing additional progress in Bulgaria over the coming year and to the country becoming an important, reliable and efficient energy hub in the Balkan region. We also look forward to a growing level of involvement in the country's energy sector by American companies.

Congratulations again to the Bulgarian Government for a job well done and to continued progress for a prosperous and peaceful future.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SALUTE TO DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA YOUTH VOLUNTEERS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate two young District of Columbia students who have achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in their communities. Milton Boyd and Lakeshia Wallace have just been named honorees in the 2000 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on only one high school and one middle school student in each state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Milton Boyd, a junior at Grant School Without Walls, developed a theatrical presentation to educate teenagers in the District about the importance of making healthy life decisions. As a result of his work, Milton was recruited to join Planned Parenthood's youth outreach campaign, which promotes non-violence, sexual awareness and abstinence, and self control.

Lakeshia Wallace, a junior at Hugh Browne Junior High School, initiated a project to deliver home cooked meals to the homeless in her community during the cold fall and winter months. As president of her local Boys and Girls Club, Lakeshia helped establish "Project GRATE," which delivers food to homeless people who live and sleep on subway grates.

I ask my colleagues to join me today and applaud Milton Boyd and Lakeshia Wallace for their initiative in seeking to make their communities better places to live and for the positive impact they have had on the lives of others. Congratulations to both for their commitment and dedication to the people of the District of Columbia.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT F. SCHUELER

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Robert F. Schueler, a dear friend and community leader who recently passed away. Bob was a faithful member of St. Saviour Church in Rossmoyne, and is survived by Virginia (Ginny), his wife of over 29 years.

Bob dedicated much of his life to public service. Since December 1, 1973, he served tirelessly as Blue Ash's Ward 4 council representative. He also served as Blue Ash's mayor from 1987 to 1991 and as vice mayor from 1985 to 1987. He was a council representative for the city of Reading for several years prior to 1973, an active member and past president of the Blue Ash Civil League, and president of the Blue Ash Republican Club. Bob was also active with the St. Patrick Council Knights of Columbus, as the president of the Hamilton County Republican Party, and as the ward chairman for Blue Ash.

Bob lived in, served, and represented Blue Ash for nearly 30 years. All of us in the Great-

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er Cincinnati Area will remember his full devotion and service to our community.

SPACE DAY AND ITS IMPORTANCE TO COLORADO

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I want to call attention to two important causes for celebration and reflection. First, today is Space Day. Here in Washington, Senator John Glenn, Sally Ride, NASA director Daniel Goldin, and others will gather to celebrate the achievements and opportunities that we have all realized through the exploration of space. The celebration also includes Space Day's third annual Webcast devoted to space, science, math, and technology, in which children all over the world will be able to participate. Space Day activities will also take place in Colorado and other states throughout the country.

This week is also the tenth anniversary of the launch of NASA's Hubble Space Telescope. Although its early life was marked by controversy, the Hubble has become one of the most important astronomical study missions ever attempted. In 1993, shuttle astronauts installed lenses—made by Ball Aerospace, in my district in Colorado—to correct the telescope's near-sighted vision. Since that time, Hubble's images have been nothing less than remarkable. Hubble itself has circled the Earth 58,000 times, made 271,000 observations, and generated 2,651 scientific papers. It has fulfilled its scientific missions to determine the age of the universe within a certain range, provide proof that massive black holes exist, and detect the farthest objects in the universe.

Not only has the Hubble telescope made these extraordinary discoveries, but its images have also helped to broaden the appeal of space to all Americans. Pictures of exploding stars and a comet hitting Jupiter are just some that have engaged our imaginations and changed the way we think about the universe.

I'm proud to note that Colorado and its 2d Congressional District in particular has played a significant role in this nation's space endeavor. But it has truly been a national endeavor, one that has benefited all Americans. I hope we will all take a moment today—Space Day—to reflect on how the advancement of science and space concerns us all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, due to the failure of my pager to operate properly, I inadvertently was absent from three rollcall votes on May 2, 2000.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on the following three roll calls: Rollcall No. 133: H. Con. Res. 295, regarding human